

**Department of the Army, DoD**

**§ 578.6**

Medal (ARCOM), and Army Achievement Medal (AAM) will be limited to bullet format in the space allowed on the DA Form 638. Bullet format or narratives may be used for the Legion of Merit (LM). Narratives are required for all other awards and will be added as an addendum to the recommendation. Narrative should be prepared on 8½ by 11-inch bond paper and is limited to one double-spaced typewritten page except for recommendations of the Distinguished Service Medal and above. Narratives for valor must contain a description of the following elements: Terrain and weather of the area in which the action took place; enemy conditions, to include morale, proximity, firepower, casualties and situation prior to, during and after the act; the effect of the act on the enemy; the action of comrades in the immediate vicinity of the act and the degree of their participation in the act; if the act occurred in aerial flight, the type and position of the aircraft and the individual's crew position; the degree to which the act was voluntary; the degree to which the act was outstanding and exceeded what was normally expected of the individual; all unusual circumstances; and overall effects or results of the act.

(d) Heroism award recommendations will contain statements of eyewitnesses, preferably in the form of certificates, affidavits, or sworn statements; extracts from official records; sketches; maps; diagrams; photographs; and so forth, which support and amplify stated facts for the heroism award.

(e) Recommendations will be forwarded through command channels to the commander authorized to approve or disapprove it. Each intermediate commander/supervisor will recommend

approval or disapproval, and cite specific reasons whenever disapproval is recommended.

(f) Except for the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 1130 outlined in paragraph (g) of this section and lost awards, each recommendation for an award of a military decoration must be entered administratively into military channels within 2 years of the act, achievement, or service to be honored. Submission into military channels is defined as "signed by the initiating official and endorsed by a higher official in the chain of command."

(g) Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1130, a Member of Congress can request consideration of a proposal for the award or presentation of decoration (or the upgrading of a decoration), either for an individual or unit, that is not otherwise authorized to be presented or awarded due to limitations established by law or policy. Based upon such review, the Secretary of the Army shall make a determination as to the merits of approving the award or presentation of the decoration and other determinations necessary to comply with congressional reporting under 10 U.S.C. 1130.

**§ 578.6 Wartime criteria.**

*Wartime criteria, by whom awarded.* The Medal of Honor is awarded only by the President. Other decorations are awarded by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army. When wartime conditions erupt, authority to further delegate decorations approval authority will be requested from the Secretary of the Army. Initial delegation will be requested consistent with the award approval authority outlined in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2

**Delegation of Award Approval—Wartime Criteria**

The primary purpose of this table is to outline the various awards and decorations approval authorities for use during the immediate stages of Army combat operations. Once delegated, this authority is reviewed every 30, 60, or 90 days during combat operations to determine if further delegation is expedient and justified. Wartime delegation is withdrawn from approval authorities upon redeployment of the unit. This table is not absolute and is subject to change as necessary by the Secretary of the Army. Award approval levels outlined in Table 3 are applicable to Table 2.

Awards	Approval authority	May further delegate	Awarded to
Medal of Honor .....	President of the United States	N/A .....	U.S. military personnel.

TABLE 2—Continued  
Delegation of Award Approval—Wartime Criteria

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Awards	Approval authority	May further delegate	Awarded to
DSC & all lesser decorations ..	Secretary of the Army or others as designated by the Secretary of the Army.	N/A .....	a. U.S. Army Active and Reserve Component personnel. b. U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard personnel with concurrence of the appropriate Service Secretary.
DSC, SS, LM, DFC and SM ....	CG of a U.S. Army Force (Serving in the rank of General) (See note 1).	MG and BG commanders (BG must be serving in MG position), commanders of separate units, may award the BSM, AM, and ARCOM (See note 2).	U.S. Army personnel and members of the other armed services and members of the armed forces of forces of friendly foreign nations in the ranks comparable to the grade of O-6 (COL) or lower provided concurrence is obtained from that Service or foreign government.
BSM, AM, ARCOM .....	Senior Army Commander and commanders of a separate force serving in the rank of LTG (see note 1).	MG and BG (serving in MG positions) commanders of separate units, may award the BSM, AM and ARCOM (see note 2).	U.S. Army personnel and members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations in the ranks comparable to the grade of O-6 (COL) and below, provided concurrence is obtained from that Service or foreign government.
PH .....	CG of any separate unit and Hospital commanders receiving casualties.	To any field grade commander who has orders issuing authority.	Member of the Army and member of other Services provided concurrence is obtained from that Service.
PUC, VUA, MUC .....	As provided in § 578-57; § 578-58 and § 578-59.	Not further delegated .....	U.S. units and foreign allied units (see § 578-57; § 578-58; and § 578-59).
Campaign Participation Credit	Senior Army Commander serving in the rank of LTG or higher.	Not further delegated .....	Only to eligible U.S. Army units and RC units called to active duty.
Assault landing Credit .....	Senior Army Commander serving in the rank of LTG or higher.	Not further delegated .....	Only to eligible U.S. Army units and RC units called to Active duty. (DA General Orders Issued)
Combat Badges .....	Commanding General of any separate unit.	To any field grade commander who has orders issuing authority.	See § 578.69, § 578.70, § 578.71, § 578.72, § 578-74, § 578-79, § 578-84 and § 578-99 for specific eligibility requirements for combat requirements for combat badges. See also Table 9 on who may be awarded these badges.

**Notes:**

1. The senior Army commander (SAC) upon arrival in the theater of operations, or as soon thereafter as practical, will submit a request to CFR, USA HRC (see § 578.3(c)), requesting this delegation be activated.
2. Authority to approve award of the ARCOM under wartime criteria may be delegated to Colonel level commanders.

**§ 578.7 Peacetime criteria.**

Peacetime criteria, by whom awarded. Awards for peacetime service are made by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the

Army. When peacetime criteria apply, authority to award decorations is automatically delegated as shown in Table 3 below.